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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/625,047

07/24/2000

Yasushi Tokumo

019519-259

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08/28/2002

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EXAMINER

KARLSEN, ERNEST F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/625,047

Applicant(s)

TOKUMO ET AL.

Examiner

Ernest F. Karlsen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-8 and 10-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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1. Applicants have elected Group I, the species of Figure 4 and the subspecies of Figure 12 and have stated that claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 16 read thereon. The Examiner disagrees with the designation of claims provided by Applicants. The Examiner agrees that claims 1, 2 and 4 read on that elected and disagrees that claims 6, 10, 11, 14 and 16 read on that elected. Claim 6 depends on claim 5 and claim 5 contains a feature not found in that elected. Claim 10 includes the feature of a plurality of tip ends found in the species of Figure 24 and several others but not in the elected species of Figure 4. Because claim 10 does not read on Figure 4 claims 11, 14 and 16 cannot read on Figure 4 either. Note that the above logic flows from 35 U.S.C. 112, fourth paragraph, which states that a dependent claim can only further limit. In other words, a dependent claim cannot say that the contact does not have a plurality of tip ends. The Examiner considers claim 3 to read on that elected. In the end tally, the Examiner finds claims 1-4 to read on that elected.

2. Claims 5-8 and 10-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected inventions and/or species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 13.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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It is not clear what is meant by "bulging sections which extend horizontally with respect to said tip end". Horizontal has to do with orientation in a gravitational field and it is not clear how it relates to the position of a tip end.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

5. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Grabbe.
7. Figures 19-23 should be labeled "Prior Art".

E KARLSEN/pj

08/26/02


ERNEST KARLSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER